



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
Silver Spring, MD 20910

**THE NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
ANNOUNCES PROTECTED SPECIES RELEASE, DISENTANGLEMENT, AND
IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOPS BEING HELD IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND
MARCH 2008**

Beginning January 2007, shark and swordfish limited access permit holders and applicants for permit transfers must submit a copy of their Protected Species Release, Disentanglement, and Identification workshop certificate in order to renew or transfer either a shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permit (71 FR 58057; October 2, 2006). As such, **vessel owners whose permits expire in late 2007 or early 2008 must attend one of the free workshops listed below before their permit(s) can be renewed.**

WHO MUST ATTEND

- All new applicants for shark limited access and/or a swordfish limited access permits
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **owners**
- Pelagic longline, bottom longline, and gillnet vessel **operators**

Following permit renewal in 2007, vessel operators will be required to possess on board the vessel valid workshop certificates for both the vessel owner and operator at all times.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOPS

- To educate longline and gillnet fishermen on the required techniques for safe handling and release of entangled and/or hooked protected species, such as sea turtles, marine mammals, and smalltooth sawfish
- To improve identification of protected species and improve reporting
- To generate a better understanding of the requirements for participating in these fisheries
- To provide participants with the skills needed to reduce the mortality of protected species

SCHEDULE

The following table lists the workshops to take place in January, February, and March 2008. Workshops will begin promptly at **9:00 am** and will conclude at approximately **5:00 pm**. Additional workshops will be scheduled in each region throughout 2008.

Date	Location	Address	City	State	Zip Code
January 2008					
01/09/2008	Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort	10,000 Beach Club Dr.	Myrtle Beach	SC	29572
01/16/2008	Houston Airport Marriott	18,700 John F. Kennedy Blvd.	Houston	TX	77032
February 2008					
02/20/2008	Doubletree Grand Key Resort	3,990 South Roosevelt Blvd.	Key West	FL	33040
March 2008					
03/19/2008	Doubletree Guest Suites Boston	400 Soldiers Field Rd.	Boston	MA	02134



items to the workshop.

Individual Vessel Owner:

- Proof of identification
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- A copy of the vessel registration or documentation.

Representative of a Business or Co-Owned Vessel:

- Proof that the individual is an agent (partial owner) of the business
- A copy of the applicable permit(s), and
- Proof of identification


Vessel Operator:

- Proof of identification

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To sign up for a scheduled workshop, please contact Aquatic Release Conservation (877) 411-4272, 1870 Mason Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32117.

For further information regarding workshop requirements please visit the following webpage: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/workshops> or contact Greg Fairclough, (727) 824-5399.



Alan Risenhoover
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

DEC 6 2007

Date

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